

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 /076 W

-----031866 240957Z /11

R 231716Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3787

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 20065

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, CN, FR

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS IN COMOROS

REF: A) STATE 125354, B) STATE 138545,

C) ANTANANARIVO 1129, D) PARIS 19853

1. AFTER RECEIPT REFTEL A WE DISCUSSED COMOROS DEVELOPMENTS WITH QUAI OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR INDIAN OCEAN AFFAIRS (PAGNIER) ON MAY 23. SHE WAS UNABLE TO SHED MUCH LIGHT ON DEVELOPMENTS BUT FLATLY DENIED THAT FRANCE WAS BEHIND THE COUP WHICH OUSTED SOILIH. SHE ALSO SAID THAT IT WOULD TAKE WEEKS TO FORM A GOVERNMENT SINCE AHMED ABDULLAH (WHO WAS STILL IN FRANCE TRYING TO GET AROUND FRENCH REGULATIONS THAT FORBID PERSONS GRANTED THE STATUS OF POLITICAL EXILES FROM RETURNING TO THE COUNTRY FROM WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN EXILED) WOULD ACCEPT NOTHING LESS THAN THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP WHICH THOSE IN MORONI WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO GRANT. THE DAY AFTER THIS CONVERSATION AFP CARRIED A REPORT FROM MORONI THAT AHMED ABDULLAH HAD BEEN NAMED COPRESIDENT OF THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. AT THAT TIME THERE WERE CLEARLY BETTER SOURCES OF INFORMATION ELSEWHERE THAN THE QUAI AND WE DID NOT REPORT THE CONVERSATION.

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2. WE REGRET THAT PREOCCUPATION WITH DEVELOPMENTS ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA PREVENTED AN EARLY FOLLOWUP AT THE QUAI ON COMOROS DEVELOPMENTS. AS NOTED PARIS 29853 COMORIAN COPRESIDENTS AHMED ABDALLAH AND MOHAMAD AHMED ARE NOW IN PARIS MEETING WITH FRENCH OFFICIALS AND IT HAS BEEN OUR INTENTION TO GET A READ OUT FROM THE QUAI NEXT WEEK AT THE CONCLUSION OF THEIR VISIT.

(THEY HAVE THUS FAR MET WITH SECSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OLIVIER STIRN AND MINISTER OF COOPERATION ROBERT GALLEY). THE DEPARTMENT CAN THEREFORE EXPECT A REPLY TO REFTELS A AND B ABOUT JUNE 28 OR JUNE 29.

3. ON THE SUBJECT OF FRENCH SUPPORT FOR THE COUP, FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD REPLIED TO A QUESTION ON THE SUBJECT POSED BY A COMMUNIST DEPUTY IN THE COURSE OF A MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE JUNE 22 AS FOLLOWS, "THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAD NOTHING TO DO EITHER FROM CLOSE OR FROM FAR WITH THE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH UNROLLED RECENTLY IN THE COMOROS AND IT IS NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE PRECISE AND DIRECT INFORMATION ON THE ROLE WHICH CERTAIN MERCENARIES MIGHT HAVE PLAYED ON THIS OCCASION." WE EXPECT OUR CONTACTS AT THE QUAI WILL ADHERE TO THIS LINE EVEN IF THEY KNOW OR THINK DIFFERENTLY.  
HARTMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**TAGS:** PDIP, PINT, CN, FR, US  
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